

ACCESS

Leaving Zsámbék in the direction of Bicske and turning towards Szomor, we can find Zsámbék Hill to the right of the road. Going further down the same road, about 2km after the Fejér-megye (Fejér County) sign, we can find the twisting asphalted road that leads to the entrance to the Historic Missile Base.

HISTORY

The Museum at Zsámbék opened its doors to the visitors on 22 September 2006, with the help of the Ministry of Defence and the Military History Institute and Museum.

The special Branch of Service Museum, the first of its kind in Hungary, is designed to illustrate the history of Hungarian air defence through the equipment on display and also by other methods. The several hectare area of the Air Defence Missile Battalion which used to be based not far from Zsámbék makes it possible for the sizeable air defence assets to be exhibited. The change of régime, the collapse of the Warsaw Pact and our NATO accession necessitated the transformation of our defence forces. During this period battalions were disbanded, garrisons were replaced and a lot of equipment was withdrawn from service, which could only be saved from decay by the establishment of the Museum.

The formerly top secret military installation formed part of the air defence system around Budapest. The Battalion at Zsámbék was disbanded in 1997 and its abandoned area with its natural and historic assets drew the attention of the Zsámbék Basin Tourism Association. Upon their recommendation it became a protected monument in 2005 and now it is a 20th century memorial place in the history of fortifications. In the line of our historical monuments it represents the fort of modern times after our earth castles, medieval castles and 19th century fortresses.

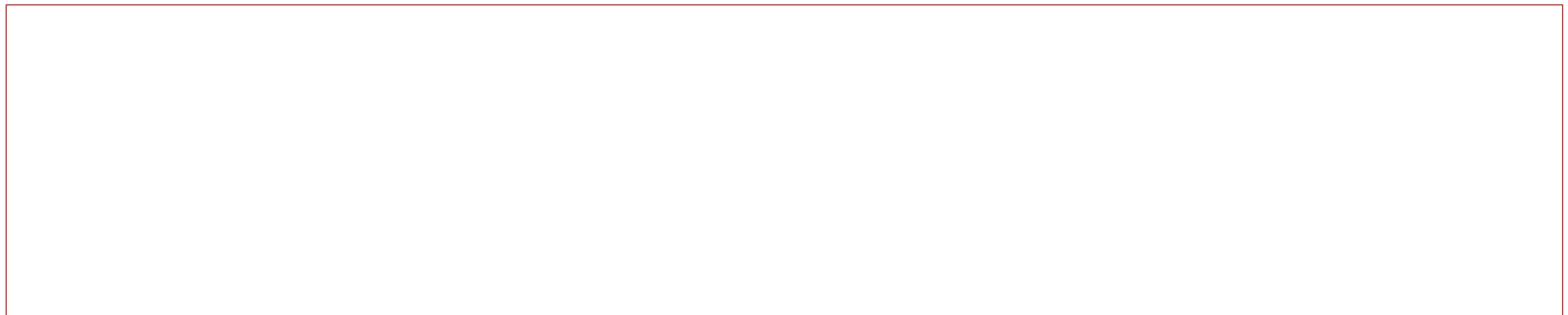
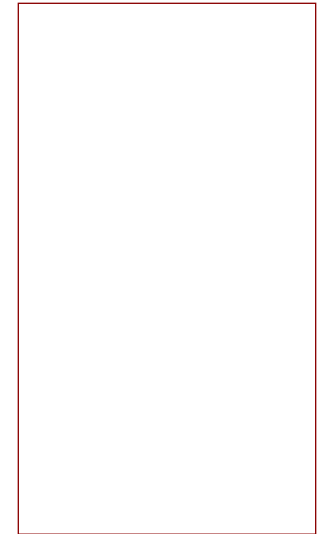
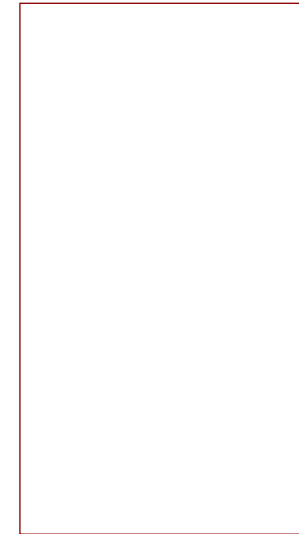
According to the development plan entitled „from military base to cultural base” the NATURA -2000 nature protection area and the 24 buildings and other structures on it now serve as a theatre, art, military history, tourism and nature conservation base as well. In addition to the Museum the base also houses one of the best known Hungarian open air theatres, the Zsámbék Saturdays and also a lot more cultural events. From the 1960s to the mid-1990s the system serving the defence of Budapest’s airspace consisted of mixed air defence missile battalions which were capable of destroying enemy targets within the range of 500m and 257km at altitudes within the range of 20m and 40 km. The battalions making up the system were based in the vicinity of the settlements around Budapest, one of which was the battalion at Zsámbék.

The Zsámbék Air Defence Missile Battalion was equipped with medium range air defence missile technology with a target range extending from 3.5km to 45km.

Additional technology can also be found in the collection of the museum. Air defence missiles can be classified according to their effective ranges as very short range (up to 5km), short range (5-30km), medium range (30-150km) and long range (over 150km).

The historic monument includes the area of the former air defence battalion so visitors can see the fortifications and other constructions of a military installation of this kind from the second half of the 20th century including the command post, the sites of the two reconnaissance radars, the sites of the six missile launch pads, the immediate reaction missile shelters and other buildings and structures.

In the first part of the Museum the standard technology of the period between 1977 and 1997 can be seen. In the radar-park of the Museum visitors can see the P-18, the P-19, the P-37 and the P-40 radars as well as artillery pieces and missiles used by the army air defence troops. A wide range of equipment can be found here including the V-750 training missile complete with a launch pad and a transporter-loader vehicle, a UV cabin, the STRELA-10 missile system, the ZSU-57/2 self-propelled gun, the VOLHOV, KRUG, KUB, VEGA and NEVA missile systems and a lot more assets that played a determining role in the air defence of the above period.



RADIO LOCATOR PARK

A radio locator or radar is a technical appliance which is basically used to determine the location and position of objects with the help of radio waves. Radars use electromagnetic waves as a signal, which bounces back from an object, is received by a receiver and then is electronically processed to determine the given object's position and other characteristics. Numerous items of the locator technology which is indispensable for effective air defence can be seen in this area.

FUEL PUMP PARK

The early types of air defence missiles were filled with special liquid fuel - a mixture of an oxidizer for ignition and a highly combustible material. This multi-component propellant was loaded into the special tanks of the missiles with the help of fuel pumps that fully met the safety requirements of the period. This equipment is on display in this area.

AIR DEFENCE ARTILLERY PARK

The first ground based air defence assets were those artillery pieces that were developed on the principle of conventional firearms. They are worthy of interest because they were developed in a way that represented the highest technical level of the time in order to achieve the longest possible effective range and the best possible hit accuracy. Visitors can see the auxiliary appliances (range finders and gun directors/predictors) that facilitated the effective use of these assets.

ARMY AIR DEFENCE PARK

By the second half of the 20th century fighting ground forces achieved a very high level of mobility. The air defence and protection of these fighting forces was only possible with assets whose mobility met this requirement and in addition to manoeuvring on the ground, manoeuvring with missile fire also had to be practicable in the interest of effective protection. These air defence assets can be seen in this area.

HOMELAND AIR DEFENCE PARK

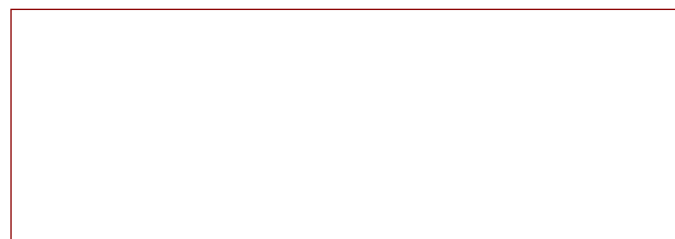
By the second half of the 20th century it became necessary to establish the air defence of large installations and groups of installations. In order to achieve this, air defence missile systems were fielded that consisted of less mobile assets but were used as system. In order to improve effectiveness these complexes (air defence missile battalions) were deployed in a mixed manner around the designated group of installations, which could be as big as hundreds of square kilometres. The air defence fire of the air defence missile battalions constituting the elements of this complicated fire system was supported by state-of-the-art automated fire control assets. The typical items of homeland air defence assets can be found in this area.

EXHIBITION HALL

The hall where fifteen years ago the missiles of the air defence artillery battalion were kept now houses the exhibition which was created for the 50th anniversary of the establishment

of the Hungarian Air Defence branch of service. In the same place visitors can see those assets whose preservation is extremely important for several reasons.

While expanding the Museum, our aim is to collect in one place the technological assets that were used by the Hungarian air defence forces during the 20th century and present them to the visitors in a systematized manner.



Sok érdekesség vár tehát a látogatókra: a különböző hatótávolságú légvédelmi rakéták - VOLHOV, KRUG, KUB, NYEVA - a hozzájuk kapcsolódó rendszerek és eszközök, a harci, vezetési, felderítő és híradás-összeköttetést biztosító eszközök, V-750-es gyakorló rakéta indítóállvánnyal, szállító-töltő gépkocsival, UV kabin, SZTRELA-10, PAROL rendszer, P-18 lokátor, Zszu-57/2 önjáró légvédelmi gépgyűjtyű, melyek a korszak légvédelmében meghatározó szerepet játszottak, de megtalálható a közel 100 darabot bemutató gyűjteményben néhány, a korábbi időszakból származó eszköz is. A múzeum célja, hogy a XX. századi magyar hadtörténet légvédelem-történeti részének haditechnikáját egy helyen összegyűjtve, rendszerre mutathassa be a látogatóknak.



OPEN:

1 April - 15 October

Monday: closed

Tuesday - Sunday: 10 am - 6 pm

Further information:

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GROUND BASED AIR DEFENCE BRANCH MUSEUM ZSÁMBÉK